

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 JAKARTA 4243

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, PGOV, ID
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON NEW CABINET MEMBERS - II

REF: JAKARTA 4154

1. SUMMARY. THIS CABLE CONTAINS BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF
NEW CABINET MEMBERS ZAIN, DAOED JOESOEF, SOEWARDJONO,
ALAMAYAH AND SAPARDJO AND OF THE NEW KOPKAMTIB CHIEF OF STAFF
DARJATMO. END SUMMARY.

2. MINISTER OF MANPOWER AND TRANSMIGRATION: PROF. DRS.
HARUN ALRASYID ZAIN. ZAIN IS ONE OF INDONESIA'S MOST
TALENTED TECHNOCRATS AND THE CABINET'S NEWEST "BERKELEY
MAFIOSO." FOR THE PAST ELEVEN YEARS, HE HAS BEEN A DYNAMIC
AND EFFECTIVE GOVERNOR IN WEST SUMATRA, DIRECTING A DRAMATIC
"TURN AROUND" IN THAT PROVINCE'S ECONOMIC FORTUNES. A
LABOR RELATIONS SPECIALIST BY TRAINING, HE BRINGS STRONG
CREDENTIALS TO THE CRITICAL EFFORT TO RESOLVE INDONESIA'S
MANPOWER PROBLEMS. PUBLICLY KNOWN AS A STRICT PRACTICING
MUSLIM, HE ALSO HELPS BRING POLITICALLY IMPORTANT RELIGIOUS
BALANCE TO THE CABINET. WHILE IN WEST SUMATRA, ZAIN WAS
OPEN AND FRANK WITH AMERICANS AND WILL PROBABLY PROVE MORE
WIDELY ACCESSIBLE THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, SUBROTO.
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3. BORN IN 1927 IN JAKARTA OF A PROMINENT MINANGKABAU
FAMILY, ZAIN'S HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION WAS INTERRUPTED BY
SERVICE AS AN ANTI-DUTCH GUERRILLA. AFTER INDEPENDENCE,
ZAIN RETURNED TO SCHOOL, EARNING AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA (UI) AND A PH.D. FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA AT BERKELEY (1960). DURING

AND AFTER HIS DEGREE TRAINING, ZAIN WORKED FOR A VARIETY OF PUBLICLY -FUNDED RESEARCH INSTITUTES AND UNIVERSITIES DOING FIELD RESEARCH ON LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS. HE WAS APPOINTED RECTOR OF ANDALAS UNIVERSITY IN PADANG, WEST SUMATRA, IN THE EARLY 1960'S, A POSITION HE HELD UNTIL BECOMING THAT PROVINCE'S GOVERNOR IN 1966. ZAIN, A HARD-WORKER AND AN EXTROVERT, IS MARRIED AND THE FATHER OF THREE TEEN-AGED DAUGHTERS.

4. MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE: DR. DAOED JOESOEF. THE SELECTION OF DAOED JOESOEF FOR THE IMPORTANT EDUCATION POST WAS ONE OF THE MOST DISAPPOINTING OF THE NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS. DESPITE A REASONABLY GOOD EDUCATION BACKGROUND, JOESOEF HAS NOT IMPRESSED US WITH HIS INTELLIGENCE OR INSIGHT INTO INDONESIA'S EDUCATION PROBLEMS. A PROTEGE OF SUHARTO'S POLITICAL TROUBLE-SHOOTER ALI MURTOPO, JOESOEF SEEMS LIKELY TO USE HIS ORTFOLIO AS AN INSTRUMENT OF CONTROLLING--RATHER THAN REFORMING OR IMPROVING -- THE INDONESIAN EDUCATION SYSTEM. WHILE ALWAYS PROPOER IN HIS RELATIONS WITH US, JOESOEF IS NOT PARTICULARLY WARM OR RECEPTIVE TO AMERICANS. HE STILL DELIGHTS IN TELLING OF HOW HE MANIPULATED THE FORD FOUNDATION INTO ALLOWING HIM TO USE A FELLOWSHIP TO STUDY AT THE SORBONNE RATHER THAN IN THE UNITED STATES, AS FORD REGULATIONS DEMANDED. (HIS DETRACTORS STATE THAT THE SORBONNE CHOICE WAS A NECESSITY SINCE HE COULD NOT HAVE

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MADE THE GRADE AT BERKELEY.)

5. THE 51 YEAR OLD JOESOEF IS A NATIVE OF NORTH SUMATRA WHO, LIKE MANY OF HIS CONTEMPORARIES, INTERRUPTED HIS SCHOOLING TO FIGHT THE DUTCH DURING THE INDONESIAN REVOLUTION. HE ENTERED UI IN THE MID-1950'S, WINNING AN UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE IN ECONOMICS. HIS FORD-FUNDED AND SUBSEQUENT TRAINING IN FRANCE EXTENDED OVER FOUR SCATTERED YEARS IN THE MID-1960'S AND EARLY 1970'S, AND HE ENDED UP WITH TWO PH. D.'S, ONE IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCE AND THE OTHER IN ECONOMIC SCIENCE. DURING THE 1970'S HE SERVED ON INDONESIAN DELEGATIONS TO A NUMBER OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CONFERENCES. IN 1974 HE BECAME CHARIMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF ALI MURTOPO'S "THINK TANK," THE CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CSIS). JOESOEF, WHO ENJOYS PAINTING IN HIS SPARE TIME, IS MARRIED (HIS WIFE IS A MEMBER OF THE UI FACULTY) AND HAS ONE DAUGHTER.

6. MINISTER OF HEALTH: DR. SOEWARDJONO SURJANINGRAT. SOEWARDJONO IS, BY ANY STANDARD, AN EXCELLENT CHOICE TO LEAD THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT. NAMED ONLY TWO MONTHS AGO

AS THE DEPARTMENT'S SECRETARY GENERAL, HIS QUICK JUMP TO THE TOP IS A REFLECTION OF THE REMARKABLY SUCCESSFUL JOB HE HAS DONE FOR THE PAST SEVEN YEARS HEADING INDONESIA'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. HIS PERSONAL PRESTIGE AND CONTACTS (INCLUDING HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SUHARTO) WILL PROBABLY LEAD TO A BIGGER BUDGET AND MORE AMBITIOUS PROGRAMS FOR HIS DEPARTMENT. HIS SKILL AND EXPERIENCE MEAN HIS DEPARTMENT'S EXPANDED EFFORTS WILL LIKELY BE BETTER INTEGRATED

AND MORE EFFECTIVE. HE HAS BEEN VERY ACCESSIBLE TO US IN THE PAST AND WE ANTICIPATE CONTINUED GOOD ENTREE.

7. ALTHOUGH SOEWARDJONO IS A CAREER ARMY OFFICER, HE HAS
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SPENT VIRTUALLY HIS ENTIRE MILITARY CAREER IN MEDICAL ASSIGNMENTS AND SELDOM USES HIS MILITARY TITLE (MAJOR GENERAL. A 54 YEAR OLD CENTRAL JAVANESE AND SPECIALIST IN OBSTETRICS AND GYNECOLOGY, SOEWARDJONO IS A GRADUATE OF UI AND PURSUED NON-DEGREE STUDIES AT SEVERAL U.S. HOSPITALS AND UNIVERSITIES. HE WAS INVOLVED IN FAMILY PLANNING MEDICINE IN THE ARMY AND AT SEVERAL HOSPITALS IN WEST JAVA BEFORE MOVING FULL-TIME INTO THE FAMILY

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PLANNING FIELD. IN 1970 HE WAS APPOINTED CHARMAN OF THE

NATIONAL FAMILY PLANNING COORDINATION BOARD (BKKBN).
SOEWARDJONO IS MARRIED AND PRACTICES ONLY PART OF WHAT HE
PREACHES -- HE HAS FIVE CHILDREN.

8. MINISTER OF RELIGION: H. ALAMSYAH RATU PAWIRANEGARA.
ALAMSYAH'S APPOINTMENT AS MINISTER OF RELIGION WAS ONE OF
THE MOST SURPRISING IN THE NEW CABINET (THOUGH HE HAD
BEEN RUMORED FOR OTHER CABINET POSTS). ALTHOUGH A
PRACTICING MUSLIM, HE IS PRIMARILY KNOWN AS A CAREER
MILITARY OFFICER WITH CLOSE TIES IN THE PAST TO SUHARTO.
IN RECENT MONTHS, WHILE SERVING AS VICE CHAIRMAN OF THE
LARGELY HONORIFIC SUPREME ADVISORY COUNCIL (DPA), ALAMSYAH
HAS OCCASIONALLY SERVED AS A MOUTHPIECE FOR THE SUHARTO
VIEWPOINT ON THE CONTROVERSIAL ISSUE OF JAVANESE MYSTICISM
(KEPERCAYAAN) AND ITS INCLUSION IN THE GBHN. HIS
SELECTION IS UNLIKELY TO SIT WELL WITH INDONESIA'S
POLITICALLY SENSITIVE PRACTICING MUSLIMS, AND HIS TENURE
AS MINISTER IS MORE LIKELY TO BE CHARACTERIZED BY TENSION
THAN BY CREATIVE RESOLUTION OF RELIGIOUS PROBLEMS. ALAMSYAH
HAS ALSO BEEN RECENTLY CRITICAL OF THE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOP-
MENT PERFORMANCE. HIS INCLUSION IN THE CABINET THUS
CAN BE READ NOT ONLY AS A REWARD FOR HIS SERVICE ON THE
GBHN BUT ALSO AS THE TRADITIONAL JAVANESE PRACTICE OF
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BRINGING KNIGHTS INTO THE PALACE. AS WAS THE CASE
WITH HIS PREDECESSOR, WE ARE LIKELY TO HAVE A LITTLE
BUSINESS CONTACT WITH ALAMSYAH.

9. ALAMSYAH, BORN ON CHRISTMAS DAY 1925 IN LAMPUNG
PROVINCE, SUMATRA, WAS EDUCATED IN DUTCH PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND IN INDONESIAN MILITARY SCHOOLS. HE
ENTERED THE MILITARY IN 19743 AND SERVED MOST OF HIS EARLY
YEARS IN SUMATRA. HE CAME TO JAKARTA IN 1963 AS AN
ASSISTANT TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND ACHIEVED HIS FIRST
STAR A YEAR LATER. IN 1966 HE LEFT ACTIVE DUTY TO BECOME
AN AIDE AT THE PRESIDENTIAL PALACE, RISING TO THE RANK OF
STATE SECRETARY AND DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS SECRETARY IN
1968. HE WAS REMOVED FROM THOSE JOBS IN 1971 REPORTEDLY IN PART
BECAUSE OF HIS REPUTATION FOR CORRUPTION AND INEFFECTIVE-
NESS. HE SERVED AS AMBASSADOR TO THE NETHERLANDS FROM
1972-74 AND RETURNED TO THE DPA SINECURE IN 1975. ALAMSYAH
IS MARRIED AND THE FATHER OF TWO DAUGHTERS AND THREE SONS.

10. MINISTER OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS: SAPARDJO. A RETIRED
CAREER MILITARY OFFICER AND STALWART OF THE GOVERNMENT
POLITICAL PARTY GOLKAR, SAPARDJO IS ONE OF SUHARTO'S LESS
INSPIRED CABINET APPOINTMENTS. IT IS A MEASURE OF HIS
LIMITED QUALIFICATIONS FOR HIS NEW JOB THAT EVEN SENIOR
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAD DIFFICULTY IDENTIFYING HIM AS THE

PERSON NAMED BY SUHARTO WHEN THE NEW CABINET WAS ANNOUNCED. HIS DEPARTMENT, PERHAPS FORTUNATELY IN THIS CONTEXT, HAS NOT BEEN A SUBSTANTIVELY IMPORTANT ONE, AND ANY REAL DECISIONS ON SOCIEAL AFFAIRS ARE LIKELY TO BE MADE BY THE MORE TALENTED COORDINATING MINISTER GENERL SURONO, WHO WILL HIMSELF BE SCRATCHING AROUND FOR THINGS TO DO. SPARDJO'S ATTITUDE TOWARD AND ACCESSIBILITY TO AMERICANS ARE AS UNKNOWN AS HIS VIEWS ON MAJOR SOCIAL ISSUES. CONFIDENTIAL

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11. SAPARDJO, AGED 53, COMPLETED HIS PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION IN HIS NATIVE JOGJAKARTA AND ENTERED THE ARMY IN 19745. THE BULK OF HIS EARLY ASSIGNMENTS WERE WITH THE CENTRAL JAVANESE DIPONOGORO COMMAND, WITH WHICH HE IS IDENTIFIED. BY THE EARLY 1960'S SAPARDJO HAS REACHED THE RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERL AND BEEN APPOINTED AS A NA ARMED FORCES REPRESENTATIVE IN THE MPR. HE BECAME ACTIVE IN GOLKAR AFFAIRS -- FIRST IN CENTRAL JVA AND THEN NATIONALLY -- IN THE MID-QOYP'S, AND IN 1969 BECAME THE PARTY'S SECRETARY GENERAL, A POSITION HE STILL HOLDS. IN 1973 HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN FOUNDING THE INDONESIAN NATIONAL YOUTH COMMITTEE (KNPI), THE GOLKAR YOUTH GROUP, AND IN 1974 WAS APPOINTED TO THE DPR. HE IS MARRIED AND THE FATHER OF A SON.

12. CHIEF OF STAFF FOR THE OPERATIONAL COMMAND FOR THE RESTORATION OF SECURITY AND ORDER (KOPKAMTIB); LT. GEN. DARJATMO. DARJATMO MOVES FROM ONE HOT SPOT TO ANOTHER. FOR MORE THAN A DOZEN YEARS, HE HAS BEEN PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING ALL MILITARY ASSIGNMENTS IN THE CIVILIAN SECTOR, WHILE DABBLING ON THE SIDE IN INDONESIAN PARTY POLITICS. HE MANAGED TO BE EFFECTIVE IN BOTH ARENAS WITHOUT VISIBLY ALIENATING ANY IMPORTANT POWER CENTERS OR ATTRACTING ANY NOTORIETY. HE PROMISES TO BRING THE SAME LOW PROFILE AND EFFECTIVENESS TO KOPKAMTIB, LEAVING THE SPOTLIGHT TO ADM. SUDOMO WHILE DOING THE DAY-TO-DAY WORK. THE FLEXIBILITY OF DARJATMO'S VIEWS ON SECURITY-RELATED ISSUES (LIKE PRISONER RELEASES) IS UNKNOWN, BUT HIS SUCCESS

IN APPARENTLY PLEASING THE PALACE FOR SO LONG IN HIS LAST SENSITIVE JOB SUGGESTS HE WILL BE A FAITHFUL SERVANT OF SUHARTO WISHES RATHER THAN A FORCE FOR INNOVATIVE OR LIBERALIZED POLICIES.

13. DARJATMO, A 52 YEAR OLD NATIVE OF CENTRAL JAVA, FOLLOWED THE TYPICAL PATTERN OF SENIOR INDONESIAN MILITARY CONFIDENTIAL

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LEADERS OF A DUTCH-STYLE SECONDARY EDUCATION FOLLOWED BY ENLISTMENT INTO THE ARMY. AFTER ARMY STAFF SCHOOLS, DARJATMO SERVED VARIOUSLY IN SUMATRA, CENTRAL JAVA AND AT THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE IN JAKARTA. HE FIRST CAME TO PUBLIC ATTENTION IN 1958, AS CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE "AUGUST 17 OPERATION" TO QUELL THE SEPARATIST/MUSLIM REVOLT IN WEST SUMATRA. IN 1965 HE FIRST BECAME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN POLITICS, WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED AS ASSISTANT VI (POLITICAL/ SOCIAL AFFAIRS) TO THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMY. IN 1970 HE WAS APPOINTED AS CHIEF OF STAFF FOR FUNCTIONAL AFFAIRS, IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AND SECURITY WHICH POSITION HE HELD UNTIL HIS APPOINTMENT TO KOPKAMTIB. DARJATMO IS A GRADUATE OF THE U.S. ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE. HE IS MARRIED, WITH THREE CHILDREN. MASTERS

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